ANACONDA Aiuminum Division

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by mel ruder

Ten years after the August 15, 1955 plant dedication there was another program at the Columbia Falls plant.

Taking place August 16, 1965 was dedication of the third potline boosting metal output from 67,500 to 100,000 tons a year.

Announced August 11, 1966 were plans to add two more potlines boosting plant capacity from 100,000 to 175,000 tons annually. Metal output in the fourth potline began August 3, 1968 and the fifth went into operation that October.

The Flathead gained from construction payrolls. On June 23, 1967 there were 1,699 employed at the plant including 710 in production and maintenance and 989 in plant expansion.

Announcement of plans to build the fourth and fifth potlines came two days prior to the August 13, 1966 ground-breaking ceremony at Libby Damsite.

September, 1968 saw completion of the Anaconda Wire and Cable Co. rod mill adjacent to the Columbia Falls plant.

April, 1973 - Second Anaconda reduction works at Sebree, Ky. went into production. Plant had 180,000 ton annual capacity.

January 12, 1977 - The Anaconda Company became a subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield Company.

April, 1980 - Completion of the \$42.4 million Sumitomo

conversion program at the Columbia Falls plant resulted in multiple benefits including compliance with Montana Board of Health emission standards, 15 percent reduction in electricity required, improved working conditions.